Amendment dated: November 16, 2004

Reply to OA of: July 16, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

## Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-74(canceled).

75(new). A method of distinguishing viable myocardial tissue from necrotic (infarcted) tissue, said method comprising administering to said body a physiologically acceptable manganese complex or salt thereof at a dosage of 0.001 to 0.2 mmol/kg bodyweight, within a period of from 3 to 6 hours following administration of said complex or salt thereof subjecting said body to a magnetic resonance imaging procedure capable of generating images with time intervals of less than 0.5 seconds and thereafter providing a series of images of the myocardium of said body and distinguishing viable myocardial tissue from infarcted tissue; with the proviso that said manganese complex or salt thereof is the only contrast agent administered in said method.

76(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said magnetic resonance imaging procedure is one capable of generating images with time intervals of less than 100 milliseconds.

77(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said imaging procedure is a gradient echo or echo planar imaging procedure.

78(new). A method as claimed in claim 77 wherein said imaging procedure is an inversion recovery echo planar imaging procedure.

79(new). A method as claimed in claim 77 wherein said imaging procedure is one in which TI (inversion time) is 100 to 800 msecs.

Amendment dated: November 16, 2004

Reply to OA of: July 16, 2004

80(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said manganese complex or salt thereof is administered at a dosage of 0.005 to 0.2 mmol/kg bodyweight.

81(new). A method as claimed in claim 80 wherein said manganese complex or salt thereof is administered at a dosage of 0.01 to 0.05 mmol/kg bodyweight.

82(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said manganese complex is a manganese chelate complex having a  $\rm K_a$  value of from  $10^7$  to  $10^{25}$ .

83(new). A method as claimed in claim 82 wherein said manganese chelate comprises a chelating compound of formula I:

or a salt thereof

(wherein in formula I

each R¹ independently represents hydrogen or -CH₂COR⁵;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydroxy, optionally hydroxylated alkoxy, amino or alkylamido; each R<sup>2</sup> independently represents a group XYR<sup>6</sup>;

X represents a bond, or a  $C_{1-3}$  alkylene or oxoalkylene group optionally substituted by a group  $R^7$ ;

Y represents a bond, an oxygen atom or a group NR<sup>6</sup>;

Amendment dated: November 16, 2004

Reply to OA of: July 16, 2004

R<sup>6</sup> is a hydrogen atom, a group COOR<sup>8</sup>, an alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from COOR<sup>8</sup>, CONR<sup>8</sup><sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup><sub>2</sub>, OR<sup>8</sup>, =NR<sup>8</sup>, =O, OP(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)R<sup>7</sup> and OSO<sub>3</sub>M;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydroxy, an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxylated alkyl or aminoalkyl group;

R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxylated alkyl group;

M is a hydrogen atom or one equivalent of a physiologically tolerable cation;

 ${\sf R}^3$  represents a  ${\sf C}_{\sf 1-8}$  alkylene group, a 1,2-cycloalkylene group, or a 1,2-arylene group; and

each R<sup>4</sup> independently represents hydrogen or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl).

84(new). A method as claimed in claim 83 wherein in formula I:

R<sup>5</sup> is hydroxy, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkoxy, ethylene glycol, glycerol, amino or C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylamido;

X is a bond or a group selected from CH<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, CO, CH<sub>2</sub>CO, CH<sub>2</sub>CO or CH<sub>2</sub>COCH<sub>2</sub>;

Y is a bond;

 $R^6$  is a mono- or poly(hydroxy or alkoxylated) alkyl group or a group of the formula  $OP(O)(OR^8)R^7$ ; and

R<sup>7</sup> is hydroxy or an unsubstituted alkyl or aminoalkyl group.

85(new). A method as claimed in claim 83 wherein in formula I,  $R^3$  is ethylene and each group  $R^1$  represents -CH<sub>2</sub>COR<sup>5</sup> in which  $R^5$  is hydroxy.

86(new). A method as claimed in claim 83 in which the compound of formula I is N,N'-bis-(pyridoxal-5-phosphate)-ethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetic acid (DPDP) or N,N'-dipyridoxyl-ethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetic acid (PLED).

Amendment dated: November 16, 2004

Reply to OA of: July 16, 2004

87(new). A method as claimed in claim 82 wherein said chelate complex is a complex of a linear, branched or macrocyclic chelant selected from polyaminopolycarboxylic acid chelants and carboxylic acid derivatives thereof.

88(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein said magnetic resonance imaging procedure is carried out within a period of up to 6 hours after the administration of said complex or salt thereof to said body.

89(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein the contrast medium further comprises calcium chelate complexes.

90(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein the contrast medium further comprises calcium or sodium salts.

91(new). A method as claimed in claim 90 wherein the calcium salt comprises calcium chloride, calcium ascorbate, calcium gluconate or calcium lactate.

92(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein the contrast medium further comprises physiologically compatible buffers.

93(new). A method as claimed in claim 75 wherein the contrast medium further comprises an antioxidant such as ascorbic acid or a reducing sugar.

94(new). A method of distinguish viable myocardial tissue from necrotic (infarcated) tissue a human or non-human body, said method comprising administering to said body a contrast medium comprising a physiologically acceptable manganese chelate complex, subjecting said body to a magnetic resonance imaging procedure capable of generating images with time intervals of less than 0.5 seconds and thereafter providing a series of images of the myocardium of said body whereby to identify regions

Amendment dated: November 16, 2004

Reply to OA of: July 16, 2004

of abnormal blood flow, wherein said complex has a K<sub>a</sub> value of from 10<sup>7</sup> to 10<sup>25</sup> and is a complex of a chelant selected from the group consisting of N,N,N',N",N"-diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) and 6-carboxymethyl-3,9-bis(methylcarbamoyl-methyl)-3,6,9-triazaundecanedioic acid (DTPA-BMA); with the proviso that said manganese complex or salt thereof is the only contrast agent administered in said method.

95(new). A method of discriminating between reversibly and irreversibly injured myocardial tissue, said method comprising administering to said body a physiologically acceptable manganese complex or salt thereof at a dosage of 0.001 to 0.2 mmol/kg bodyweight, subjecting said body to a magnetic resonance imaging procedure capable of generating images with time intervals of less than 0.5 seconds and thereafter providing a series of images of the myocardium of said body and discriminating reversibly from irreversibly injured tissue; with the proviso that said manganese complex or salt thereof is the only contrast agent administered in said method.